

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 10515 121130Z

ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1613

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 10515

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FR, PDIP

SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON JACQUES DOMINATI,
STATE SECRETARY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO

1. FIFTY YEARS OLD, A CORSICAN BY BIRTH, DOMINATI
BEGAN HIS CAREER AS A JOURNALIST WITH THE "PARISIAN
LIBERE," WHERE HE WORKED FOR FIVE YEARS FROM 1954 TO
1959. FIRST ELECTED TO THE PARIS MUNICIPAL COUNCIL IN
1959 HE WAS CONSISTENTLY REELECTED UNTIL HIS RECENT
DEFEAT IN THE MARCH 1977 ELECTIONS. HE IS ALSO A PAST
PRESIDENT (1973-74) OF THE COUNCIL AND WAS INSTRUMENTAL
IN PROMOTING THE LAW THAT RE-ESTABLISHED THE POSITION
OF MAYOR OF PARIS, A POST THAT HE ACTIVELY SOUGHT, ALBEIT
WITHOUT SUCCESS. IN 1967 DOMINATI WAS ELECTED TO THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS AN IR CANDIDATE FOR PARIS, AND HAS
BEEN REELECTED TWICE. SINCE 1967 HE HAD HELD NUMEROUS
HIGH POSTS IN THE IR HIERARCHY, EVEN BECOMING TITULAR
HEAD OF THE PARTY FOR OVER A YEAR (1975-76) WHEN FORM-
ER INTERIOR MINISTER PONIATOWSKI STEPPED DOWN AS IR
PARTY PRESIDENT. AFTER HIS NOMINATION TO THE STATE
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SECRETARYSHIP' HE RESIGNED AS IR SECRETARY GENERAL.

2. DOMINATI HAS BEEN A CLOSE AND ACTIVE SUPPORTER OF
GISCARD SINCE THE LATTER FOUNDED THE IR PARTY IN 1962.
IN 1964 DOMINATI STARTED UP THE IR POLITICAL "CLUB,"
PERSPECTIVES ET REALITIES, WHICH ACTS AS A "THINK TANK"
FOR THE PARTY. DOMINATI IS KNOWN FOR HIS IMPULSIVENESS

AND HOT TEMPER WHICH HAVE GOTTEN HIM INTO POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES TIME AND AGAIN. IN THE RECENT PARIS MUNICIPAL RACE HE PUBLICLY STATED THAT CHIRAC "WOULD NEVER BE MAYOR OF PARIS," AND THE MUTUAL ANTIPATHY BETWEEN DOMINATI AND THE RPR IS WELL KNOWN. HIS SELECTION TO THE CABINET CAN ONLY BE VIEWED AS A POLITICAL PAY-OFF TO A LOYAL GISCARDIAN FOLLOWING HIS DEFEAT IN THE PARIS MUNICIPAL ELECTION AND THE EFFECTIVE DOWNGRADING OF HIS ROLE WITHIN THE IR PARTY (76-35901). ALTHOUGH HE WAS ORIGINALLY NAMED A STATE SECRETARY WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (FURTHER INVITING COMMENTARY ON THE "POLITICAL" NATURE OF HIS APPOINTMENT), IT APPEARS THAT HE WILL WORK DIRECTLY WITH PRIME MINISTER BARRE ON PARTICULAR PROJECTS AND ACT AS A PUBLIC RELATIONS SPOKESMAN FOR THE GOVERNMENT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM TO BE PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT LATER THIS MONTH.
GAMMON

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